



Butterfly Conservation
Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats

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Isle of Wight Branch**

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Tuesday 29th September

Lynn Fomison writes.. Good to see a Small Copper at Bentley Station Meadow today. A couple of Speckled Woods were also flying.

Edward Knowles reports from Track to High Corner pub, Linwood, New Forest (SU 199103) (31): Small Copper 1 "In fine condition, basking in Indian Summer sunshine at 10:25 on extremely dusty gorse bushes lining the drive to the pub."

Monday 28th September

Steve Mansfield reports from Pennington Marshes (SU3292) (54): Clouded Yellow 1 Painted Lady 1 Comma 1 Speckled Wood 2

Sunday 27th September

Ian Pratt reports from Bonchurch Down near Ventnor IOW (34): 1 clouded yellow, 2 painted ladies and 2 female common blues. "First clouded yellow this year for me!"



Clouded Yellow

Richard Symonds writes: "Encouraged by Richard Carpenter's sighting of a second generation White Admiral I paid a visit to Straits Inclosure, Alice Holt Forest (SU800402). During an hours walk in sunshine around midday the temperature was 16°C. Very little was on the wing just two Speckled Wood's and a single Comma. After lunch I visited Broxhead Common (SU802373) for just over an hour. Feeding on heather were many Small Coppers including two of the common ab. *caeruleopunctata* Ruhl. A single Comma was also seen flying past. Near a pond on the common which had suffered from recent hot weather, were Southern Hawker, Common Darter and Black Darter dragonflies. The single male Southern Hawker was chasing all other species away. While two pairs of Common Darter and a pair of Black Darters were mating."



Small Copper ab. *caeruleopunctata*



Comma f *hutchinsoni*

Andrew Bolton reports from Ashford Hill Meadows NNR (SU 563622) (38): Small Copper 43 (forty three). "A population explosion for the 3rd brood at this site! Numbers now three times what they were on the 6th September. Courtship, mating and aerial battles in full progress in the very warm late afternoon sun. Credit to the weather gods for a great September."

Lynn Fomison writes...walking around the path on the sea defences at Keyhaven Tim Norris & I saw 9 species of butterfly. The best for us was Wall - as we had not seen a UK one in 2009. But it was also good to see a Small Copper laying on sorrel. Other species were Clouded Yellow, Painted Lady (Tatty), Red Admiral, Peacock, Large White Small White and female Common Blue.

Steve Mansfield reports from Woolmer (Range 2) (SU789329) (31): Small Tortoiseshell 1 Painted Lady 2 Peacock 1 Small Copper 3 Large White Red Admiral 1. Also from Noar Hill (SU7431) (34): Meadow Brown 5 Comma 1.

Lynn Fomison reports that Patrick Fleet & Colin Beyer saw 5 very fresh Brown Argus at Magdalen. Patrick suggests that these are third brood individuals - a theory which is borne out by Roger Buchanan not seeing any second brood individuals the last time he did the transect three weeks ago.

Saturday 26th September

Paul Brock reports "At least 6 Clouded Yellows at Barton-on-Sea flying along the undercliff, at 3.30pm occasionally nectaring on the few flowers available now, along with Small and Large Whites, Small Copper and Painted Ladies. Good to see a Brown Argus near Pennington (Efford)."



Clouded Yellow

Mike Wildish reports from Harrow Way nr Pentons (SU 335 465) (84): Comma - 3 Small Tort - 1 Peacock - 1 Holly Blue - 1 Small White - 1 Brimstone - 1 Speckled Wood - 2. "Mostly about flowering ivy in mid-day sun."

Dr David Tinling reports from Gosport: Clouded Yellow 15, Large White 2, Small White 39, Small Copper 8, Common Blue 15, Red Admiral 6, Painted Lady 10, Peacock 1, Comma 1, Speckled Wood 17, Meadow Brown 2, Total 117; Silver Y Moth 1; Southern Hawker 1, Migrant Hawker 2, Common Darter 11 (including a mating pair). Sussex Butterfly Conservation reported 500-600 Clouded Yellows at Birling Gap, near Beachy Head on 24th & 25th Sept.

Peter Clarke reports from Tennyson Trail/Compton Down (34): 5 Meadow Browns, 3 Small Coppers, 1 Wall. "I thought the Wall might have been a Grayling at first because of the way its wings were folded whilst settled on the ground but in flight its orangish uppersides were evident. Also saw a Red Admiral, about 10 Speckled Woods and 5 Small Whites on the Freshwater Way and Nature Trail between Freshwater Bay and Yarmouth."

Friday 25th September

Andrew Brookes reports: High speed Clouded Yellow seen crossing Victoria Park (SU 639003) in deepest Portsmouth this lunchtime; singleton Painted Lady, Speckled Wood, and Large White also noted.

Chris Hall reports from Odiham (SU 74 51): Comma (4), Red Admiral (3), Painted Lady (1), Small White (3), Speckled Wood (6). "Seen along Basingstoke Canal towpath in the Odiham area."

Thursday 24th September

Geoff Jones writes: "It's good to see Clouded Yellows in the area: Saturday I saw one at Titchfield Haven; Tuesday an Helice at The Moat in Gosport along with 8 Speckled Wood and numerous 'Whites'. Today a Clouded Yellow; Red Admiral at Marine Parade, Lee on the Solent along with a friendly Wheatear chasing insects just 15 feet away - what better sight in this lovely weather."

Mike Wildish reports from Broughton Down (SU 295 325) (34): Small White - 6 Small Copper - 1 Common Blue - 1(m) Comma - 2 Speckled Wood - 2 Meadow Brown - 22 Small Heath - 15. "Accompanied by Mervyn Grist. This proved to be a splendid morning to visit this reserve with sunshine, and not blowing a gale like it normally seems to do here. Plenty of late runners and some nice birds too including 6 grey partridge and about 40 linnets."

Andrew Bolton reports from set-aside off Ham Lane, Baughurst (SU 572604) (87): Comma 3, Speckled Wood 3, Small Copper 1 & female Brimstone 1. Also from Axmansford, Tadley (SU 566607) (85): One each of Small Copper, Painted Lady, Comma, Small White. "A visit from a Small Copper, which spent a good 20 minutes taking nectar. this was the 3rd garden sighting this year, and by far the latest ever for this specie, which is having a great year locally."



Small Copper

Steve Keen reports from Pennington Marshes (89/90): 2 Wall 13 Speckled Wood 1 Red Admiral 1 Small White 1 Large White. "Walls were along Ancient Highway, nice fresh individuals."

Geoff Jones writes: "An afternoon stroll around North Browdown and the Alver Valley produced the following: Meadow Brown 5; Common Blue 3m; 2 fem; Brown Argus 1; Brimstone 1fem; Speckled Wood 15; Small White 2; Large White 2; Red Admiral 1; Small Copper 1."

Tuesday 22nd September

Mark Swann reports from lower test: max count of 6 (1m 5f) 3rd brood small coppers over the last fortnight seen. found 40 + small copper eggs in a 10 minute search all on sorrel with some under the leaf , some on top and a few on the stem.all plants were very small most had eating damage and all plants had bare ground nearby with very little veg around.

Andrew Bolton reports from Stockley Inclosure, New Forest (SU 344024) (43): Small Copper 1,Red Admiral 1.

Monday 21st September

Chris Hall reports from Coxmoor (SU 78 51) (41, 54): Speckled Wood (8), Comma (4), Small White (2), Large White (1), Brimstone (1) "Seen during a walk along the Basingstoke Canal towpath through Coxmoor Wood near Dogmersfield."

Peter Gardner has sent some photographs of the Hummingbird Hawkmoth that has been frequenting his garden. Last seen on 21st September.



Hummingbird Hawkmoth

Hummingbird Hawkmoth

Sunday 20th September

Ashley Whitlock writes: "Have just returned from the New Forest of which I spent in an old lodge/pub near to Ringwood for the weekend, and its a part of the Forest I'm not familiar with, but walking around the area over the last two days I have come to love the area, which is not flat at all, like most areas of the Forest, with large areas of Heathland ,and valleys, which dip down into mature Oak and Coniferous Forest, it was truly magical, and there were [8] species of butterflies still on the wing, these being Speckled Wood [6] Grayling [1] Meadow Brown [1] Small heath [6] Comma [1] Brimstone [1] Small White [4] Small Copper [2]. The woodland around the lodge I was stopping in was full of mature oaks towering into the heavens, and there was plenty of Sallow running down by a stream at the edge of the wood, and in the wood itself it underlated very similar to the Alice Holt Forest, so I shall be back here in July looking for the Emperor, as it certainly looked every inch a wood where it should be found. Out on the Heathland I suspect the Silver-Studded Blue is common along with Dark-Green Fritillary, and the Grayling, so I shall have a lot to keep me occupied for 2010, can't wait." Richard Symonds has identified the larva as that of a Fox Moth.



Small Heath

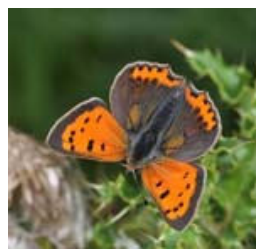


Grayling



Unknown caterpillar

Paul Brock reports: "A rare Small Copper ab. *auronitens* Schultz found at Brockenhurst, stunning hind wing colouration."



Small Copper ab. *auronitens*

Piers Vigus has sent in the following comments regarding Paul's Small Copper:

This is probably going to sound overly pedantic, but the interesting small copper aberration seen by Paul Brock on 20th September is an fact ab. *auronitens-subradiata*.

Auronitens (Schultz): On the hindwings the dark area of the upperside is suffused with a red/orange glow at the base and central area.

Subradiata (Tutt): Hindwings with delicate coppery streaks extending for a short distance along the nervures from copper marginal band towards base.

As the specimen exhibits both these features it is *auronitens-subradiata*.

My apologies if this sounds nit-picky but butterfly aberrations are my 'thing' and I couldn't resist.

Saturday 19th September

Steve Mansfield reports from Sandy Point (lifeboat station) (SZ751985) (31): Clouded Yellow 2. And also from Sandy Point reserve/beach (SU7498) (31): Clouded Yellow 1 Red Admiral 5 Peacock 2 Small Copper 1 Painted Lady 1

Friday 18th September

Robert Bryant reports from Totford Down (SU 563373) (84): Poplar Hawkmoth caterpillar 1. "Caterpillar found at edge of lane, under beech - no obvious food plants (poplar, willow, sallow) in vicinity."

Thursday 17th September

Andrew Brookes reports: Wandering the meadow at the Boarhunt Flower Mill this morning, I chanced on the remains of a colony of Peacock larvae, 4 fat specimens roaming in search of a pupation site. Second brood or very late first? The only other sign of lepidopteral life was an immaculate Small Copper.

Linda Mansfield reports from Bolle Road, Alton (SU709389) (85): Hummingbird Hawkmoth 1

Wednesday 16th September

Richard Carpenter and Heather Anthony report from Brownich Stream (SU518035) (84): 1 White Admiral "Second generation and in good condition."

Monday 14th September

Mick Langridge reports from Gosport: Clouded Yellow 3(including helice female), Small White 12+, Large White 3, Small Copper 2, Common Blue 1 female, Painted Lady 1, Peacock 1 at Fort Gilkicker(SZ607975); Clouded Yellow 2 at Gilkicker(south-west) (SZ603978); Clouded Yellow 2, Red Admiral, Speckled Wood at Gilkicker(north-west)(SZ602981).

Sunday 13th September

Gordon Rich reports 4 Clouded Yellows in the vicinity of Gilkicker Fort on the morning of Sunday 13th September.

Saturday 12th September

Jon Stokes writes: A walk in the sunshine today at Portchester Castle revealed 300 -400 of the beautiful little moth *Cosmopterix pulchrimella* in the Pellitory on the Wall. They were most abundant on the south facing walls in the sunshine where they could be seen undertaking strange circular dances. This species was first recorded in Hampshire at the Castle two years ago, but has obviously now become widespread around the Castle walls. The photograph was taken by my 10 year old son Philip – his first rare moth photograph!



Cosmopterix pulchrimella

Ashley Whitlock writes: "In the bright warmth of the afternoon, I decided to take my last look around Old Winchester Hill for 2009, and I'm really glad I did, as there have been reports that the Adonis Blue is now probably now extinct here, well I have good news that I saw two males in reasonable condition in the area of scrub at the bottom of the car-park slope which faces south-west, it took me over an hour to see one, but they are just clinging on. I saw several 'brown' coloured blues of the same size as well, but they were flying too fast to ID but I was hoping they were females of the species. I also saw Speckled Wood [3] Meadow Brown [63] Small Heath [29] Red Admiral [1] Brimstone [8] Small White [5] Common Blue [7] Chalkhill Blue [10] Brown Argus [1] Silver-Spotted Skipper [3]. A combination of very wet winters and combining that with very wet summers has probably done the Adonis Blue no favours what so ever, lets hope we can get back to summers similar to the great weather of 2006."

Mike Gibbons writes: "Whilst many people believe the butterfly season is going over, at Southbourne Undercliff it is coming alive in no uncertain terms during this warm spell. On Saturday 12th September I saw 4 or 5 pristine Clouded Yellows (some almost mustard yellow in colour) and 12 Painted Ladies in one small area of the undercliff. There were also around 80-100 Large Whites lazily wafting along the slopes, some flying up in strings of 8-10, Small Whites were around but few and far between. There was one Southern Hawker Dragonfly patrolling the cliffs. At home in Christchurch 2 fresh Commas, 4 Speckled Woods and a Red Admiral adorned my yellow Buddleia, with a Migrant Hawker Dragonfly overhead. As September and October can be excellent Clouded Yellow months, the signs are looking good, certainly better than last year."

Stewart Swift reports from Gosport: Old Lady, *Mormo maura* (BF2300), at mercury vapour lamp in my garden at Bay Road, Gosport(SZ595992).

Mark Swann reports from southbourne cliffs: "Southbourne undercliff was heaving today with butterflies scores of whites , 20 + painted ladies , 3 clouded yellows, 7 small coppers and a couple of common blues seen whilst using fishermans walk (zigzag path)."

Friday 11th September

Andrew Brookes reports: More Commas (13) on the wing at Huntbourn Wood on Friday than at any other time this year; Speckled Woods (12) still going strong, but little else.

Dr David Tinling writes: "The black & white Painted Lady, reported earlier, which Anne McCue saw in her garden at Privett Place, Gosport(SZ594999) on 10th & 11th August, and which I photographed on 11th(see photo below), was *ab.pallens* Noel (ref.Feuille Jeun.Nat.1881.9.p.102), which had a white ground colour and normal black markings. The pale Painted Lady which I saw at Gilkicker(south-west)(SZ603978) on 18th Aug should have been described as transitional to the very pale reddish-yellow *ab. pallida* Schoyen(ref Tromso Mus. Aarsh.1881.4.p77). The Sept issue of BBC Wildlife magazine has 4 pages on the 2009 Painted Lady migration and 2 pages on changes in butterfly populations in 2009. "



Painted Lady *ab. pallens*

Wednesday 9th September

Steve Keen reports from Sway (85): Hummingbird Hawkmoth (1) . "Only my second of the year, nectaring on Clerodendron in a rather large rural garden. Also 3 Silver Y and 6 spp of butterfly in the same garden (Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, Speckled Wood, Comma, Large and Small Whites), and later 2 Silver-Y and a Small Tortoiseshell in a smallish New Milton garden, and a Small Tortoiseshell continues to hibernate (3 weeks now) in our hallway in Sway."

Tuesday 8th September

Gary Palmer in the garden at Shirley Holms (sz 296 984) after a pretty barren period for a couple of weeks today I found 1 fresh comma, 1 fresh red admiral, 2 worn large white 2 gv white, 2 tatty meadow brown, 2 speckled wood and one tatty male

common blue. Meanwhile late in the day in a garden in Barton on Sea (sz 244 933) found a Convolvulus hawk moth, the first I've found for a couple of years.



Convolvulus Hawkmoth



Convolvulus Hawkmoth

Andrew Bolton reports from common land at Sherfield-on-Loddon (SU 678576) (85): Large White 5, Small White 1, Speckled Wood 1. "A visit to this previously unrecorded square yielded nothing exciting. People may like to note that the brideway marked on some OS maps shown as going through the woods at Bramley Camp (MOD) doesn't actually exist. It was closed by order in 1923! It takes a while for the OS to catch up! This area could yield more species of interest if public access were possible." Also from Cufaude Lane, Bramley (SU 650574) (85): Red Admiral 1, Painted Lady 3.

Sunday 6th September

Peter Vaughan writes: "During a mid-day visit to Bartley Heath today I saw a caterpillar of The Sycamore *Acrionicta aceris* moving swiftly across the ground (photo attached). I also saw a Fox Moth caterpillar, a Silver Y adult moth, sixteen Speckled Wood butterflies, two Commas and a Small White."



The Sycamore

Ian Pratt reports from Shalcombe Down (SZ385855) (34/41): 1 adonis blue (m), 1 chalkhill blue (f), 10 red admirals, 3 small copper, 2 large whites, 2 common blues, 3 speckled woods, 1 comma, 10= meadow browns, 1 gatekeeper. "Lovely bright afternoon with pleasant warm sunshine. The red admirals were particularly spectacular in pristine condition and easy to photograph."

Ashley Whitlock writes from Beacon Hill NNR: "I hadn't visited this site this year, so I decided to go and have a look at another Silver-Spotted Skipper site, as they seem to be struggling with numbers due to our inclement weather in the latter summer stages over recent years. I have had the great pleasure to see many of this species at this site, with one at least being seen every few metres along the many pathways at his site over the last ten years or so. But over the last couple of years they really have struggled, and I was expecting to see more than [1] which I only managed to see on the way out of the site. The site is ideal for this species especially on the more south-eastern part of the down, especially on or near the ancient fortifications. The only species that was plentiful was the Meadow Brown [100+] and coming in second place was the Small Heath with [25], really is a success story this year, along with the Brown Argus [23], and the Chalk hill Blue could still be seen [10] with one mating pair, other species seen were Common Blue [4] Small Tortoiseshell [1] Painted Lady [4] Brimstone [3] Large White [1] Green Veined White [1] Small White [4], many Silver-Y Moths."



Beacon Hill NNR



Silver-spotted Skipper

Old Winchester Hill
from Beacon Hill

Andrew Bolton reports from Ashford Hill Woods & Meadows (SU 563622) (38): Small Tortoiseshell 1, Small Copper 14. "The first Tortoiseshell I've seen on transect all year; it left it late. Small Coppers doing superbly, the most I've ever recorded here, seen in two's and three's nectaring on the Fleabane around the damper margins of the meadow. Thank goodness for these late nectar sources; the meadow is really colourful just now with Devil's bit Scabious, Tormentil, Hawkbit, Yarrow and the Fleabane."



Small Copper



Small Copper

Peter Gardner reports from Highcross (713265) Hummingbird Hawkmoth -1.



Hummingbird Hawkmoth



Hummingbird Hawkmoth

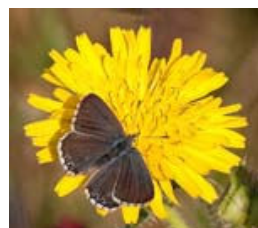
Richard Symonds writes: "On 6th September I visited Noar Hill (SU742143) for an hour and a half. The temperature was 16°C with a strong breeze. Numbers were low except for Speckled Woods. All the Common Blues I saw were very worn. My count was: Large White (5), Small White (2), Speckled Wood (18), Small Heath (11), Meadow Brown (10), Comma (1), Red Admiral (1), Common Blue (6F 1M), Brown Argus (1), Silver Y moth (2) and Rush Veneer (4)."



Common Blue

Saturday 5th September

Ian Pratt reports from Bonchurch Down (34): 3 meadow browns, 1 speckled wood, 10 adonis blues, 2 common blues.



Adonis Blue - female



Adonis Blue - male

'In mainly cloudy conditions, 12 species of butterflies were seen at Martin Down on the Branch Field trip led by John Ruppertsbery. Good to see several Adonis Blues (one male very fresh) as well as a few Common Blues and Brown Argus, as well as late Chalkhill Blues. At least 2 Small Tortoiseshells seen.'



Adonis Blue



Adonis Blue



Small Tortoiseshell

Richard Symonds writes: "On 5th September I visited Chalton Down (SU737156) for an hour and twenty minutes, the temperature was 15°C when I arrived but had reached 18°C when I left. Many Meadow Browns were present including a male which had a small yellow spot on the underside of the hindwing which I believe may be a pathological condition (see photo). Worn Chalkhill Blues still flying, although two were fresh looking. One male found resting in long grass appeared to have absence of underside spots ab.krodeli Gillmer My count was: Small White (12), Brimstone (3F), Meadow Brown (72), Speckled Wood (2), Small Heath (8), Chalkhill Blue (5F 10M), Brown Argus (1), Painted Lady (1).



Meadow Brown



Chalkhill Blue ab.krodeli Gillmer

Friday 4th September

Mark Swann reports from Testwood lakes: late summer broods just emerging fresh common blue (m), small copper, green-veined white seen today and a full grown buff tip caterpillar which was huge

Wednesday 2nd September

Lynn Fomison writes .. Things did not look promising for our public walk at Magdalen Hill Down yesterday. Grey skies, rain showers and worst of all a strong wind. However the butterflies did not disappoint the visitors. We through North & down to the bottom of the original reserve and then through to the bottom of the extension, these latter two places were out of the strong SW wind. Our total list was Speckled Wood, Common Blue, Chalkhill Blue, Brown Argus, Meadow Brown, Painted Lady, Large White & Small White.

Tuesday 1st September

Mike Wildish reports from Rooksbury Mill (SU 355 445) (84): Green-veined White - 6 Comma - 3 Small Tort - 1 Red Admiral - 1 Speckled Wood - 8. "Noted an outburst of specks while over the border in Wiltshire recently. Ivy flowers now open, well-stocked, and ready for business, weather permitting of course."

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